

SOVEREIGN GRACE CHURCH

January 15th, 2017

“Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, *forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before*, I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of GOD in CHRIST JESUS.”

PHILIPPIANS 3:13-14

JOSEPH D. MURPHY, PASTOR

WEBSITE

PurposedGrace.org

ADDRESS

**23033 Hughey Avenue
New Caney, Texas 77357-4993**

MAILING ADDRESS

P.O. Box 2160 77357-2160

PHONE

(832) 543 5333 / (832) 995 7925 cell

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Schedule of Services

Sunday School 10:00 am
Sunday Worship 11:00 am
Wednesday Worship 7:00 pm

Nursery

Nursery available for 4 years old and younger

Happy Birthday!

Chase Harrison - January 18th

This evening's featured podcast speaker will be PASTOR DONNIE BELL

ACTS 15:1-11 — A DESCRIPTION OF A BELIEVER

To find our podcast search for the keyword PurposedGrace on



Apple's **Podcast App** or



Google's **Play Music App**

* Our featured sermon is made available every Sunday at 6:00 PM

This January 18th is Bro. Cody's birthday. As the LORD leads you please remember his widow Winna and his family in prayer.

WITHERING IN SELF-RIGHTEOUSNESS

"AND LOOKING UPON JESUS AS HE WALKED, HE SAITH,
BEHOLD THE LAMB OF GOD!" JOHN 1:36

I've never met a Christian who *desired too much of himself*; but I have met some who, for some reason or another, *expected too much of themselves*. I mean this: they look at themselves, at the old Adamic nature, and expect to see it improving, getting better or more holy, but that shall never be! If, indeed, one looks at himself and feels progressively cleaner, purer, and holier, he isn't "*growing in grace*" but "*withering in self-righteousness!*" Even a casual examination of self will reveal that such a person's need of Christ is diminishing rather than increasing, and that is not grace!

The more we look at Christ crucified, the more we will mourn for sin. Look at the cross until all that is on the cross is in your heart. He who was pierced is your God, your maker, your benefactor, and best friend.

PASTOR EMERITUS **JACK SHANKS**

“Beloved, faith does not look to what it has done, but rather very blessed, it is ever forgetting what it has done and ever looks to what CHRIST has done and is doing. What has HE done? What is HE doing? Saving HIS people, wretched sinners like you and me.” (PHILIPPIANS 3:13-14)

NOT ASHAMED

“BE NOT THOU THEREFORE ASHAMED OF THE TESTIMONY OF OUR LORD, NOR OF ME HIS PRISONER: BUT BE THOU PARTAKER OF THE AFFLICTIONS OF THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO THE POWER OF GOD” 2 TIMOTHY 1:8

When is a pastor a good pastor? It is when he arrives at the place Paul spoke about to young Timothy, not being ashamed of that which Christ taught. One thing I don't intend to be is a “*nice old preacher*,” because I am not a nice old preacher. I resent more and more the religious idiocy of this age. My intention is to SEPARATE men. *People come* and *people go*, and to some degree I am at peace about the “*goers*.” If I could cause “*fence-straddlers*” to be totally uncomfortable, then that is good.

I took stock of my assets again, and I came up with the same amount. No money, no prestige, no standing in society, no friends in religion, not even a piece of ground to call my own. I am a blessed man in the fact that nobody can take anything away from the one who has nothing.

This is not the mully-grubs! I do see “*some*” who are not ashamed to confess that when they were blind Christ was revealed to them. They are not ashamed to confess that without the Holy Spirit the Bible is a closed book. These are not ashamed to confess readily, that they are nothing, have nothing, know nothing, are totally bankrupt and poverty stricken, and that Jesus Christ is all in all. The best part is that God has put me with them as their pastor. Ashamed? Oh, no! Proud to declare unto them “*the testimony of our Lord*.” Many preachers are “*ashamed of the testimony of our Lord*,” for their people are. Not this bunch, brother! They always hunger for more of the holy, sovereign Redeemer. May the Lord raise up more “*good*” pastors. He must do it, for it is not “*natural*.” The “*natural*” preacher IS ashamed of what our Lord Jesus said.

PASTOR EMERITUS **JACK SHANKS**

“...THE PRECIOUS BLOOD OF CHRIST...”

“FORASMUCH AS YE KNOW THAT YE WERE NOT REDEEMED WITH CORRUPTIBLE THINGS, AS SILVER AND GOLD, FROM YOUR VAIN CONVERSATION RECEIVED BY TRADITION FROM YOUR FATHERS; BUT WITH THE PRECIOUS BLOOD OF CHRIST, AS OF A LAMB WITHOUT BLEMISH AND WITHOUT SPOT: WHO VERILY WAS FOREORDAINED BEFORE THE FOUNDATION OF THE WORLD, BUT WAS MANIFEST IN THESE LAST TIMES FOR YOU, WHO BY HIM DO BELIEVE IN GOD, THAT RAISED HIM UP FROM THE DEAD, AND GAVE HIM GLORY; THAT YOUR FAITH AND HOPE MIGHT BE IN GOD.” (READ 1 PETER 1)

O LORD, from Whom there's nought concealed,
Who sees my inward frame;
To Thee I always stand revealed
Exactly as I am!

Since I, at times, can hardly bear
What in myself I see;
How vile and foul must I appear,
Most holy God, to Thee!

But since my Saviour stands between,
Who shed His *precious blood*,
'Tis He, instead of me is seen,
When I approach to God.

Thus, though a sinner, I am safe:
He pleads before the throne
His life and death on my behalf,
And calls my sins His own.

What wondrous love, what mysteries,
In this appointment shine!
My breaches of the law are His,
And His obedience mine.